operations by day and night for seaward anti-terrorist patrols for security of naval assets, besides; interception at high speeds and perform search and rescue operations.

Investigation against IAI by Israeli authorities

2765. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government was aware that the Israeli authorities had investigated the Israel Aero Space Industries (IAI) for malpractices in contract with other countries and such charges led to the head of the IAI to stop down in 2005; and

(b) whether his Ministry is also aware that an Indian agent of IAI replaced by another, petitioned the Israeli Defence Ministry claiming that additional commissions were due to him?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): A newspaper article had appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi edition dated 25th January, 2008 captioned 'After Barak, Phalcon deal under cloud', alleging irregularities on the part of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in defence contracts including payment of commissions in the procurement of Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft by the Indian Air Force.

The matter was taken up with the Israeli Ministry of Defence who had informed that they had no document or report pertaining to the investigation regarding IAI Both the Israeli State Comptroller and the Economic Crimes Department in their State Attorney's Office (in charge of this investigation) had made clear that their investigations focused on alleged IAI procedures and practices without any references or connection whatsoever to the Indian transaction or Indian citizens. Further, the State Comptroller had issued no report on his inquiry and the police investigations ended with no charges being pressed against any person. No other information has been received in this regard.

Tunnel at Rohtang pass in H.P.

†2766. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) when were the tenders were floated to construct a tunnel at Rohtang pass for connecting Kullu to Lahul Spiti in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether work on the said tunnel already started, if so, the progress thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the work will start?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Global tender for construction of the tunnel was issued in November 2007. Technical and commercial bids have been opened and the same are under evaluation.

Establishment of Institute of Defence Design and Technology

†2767. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.